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FM AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4559

INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0408

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0453

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0389

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0540

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 000141

SIPDIS

STATE FOR ISN, EAP, IO, USUN, T,

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/24/2019

TAGS: PARM PREL MNUC KNNP BX

SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF DEMARCHE OF ASEAN IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1874 AND TRANSPARENCY IN NORTH KOREA TRANSACTIONS

REF: SECSTATE 64133

Classified By: DCM John W. McIntyre for reasons 1.4 (b)(d)

¶1. (C) Ambassador Todd met with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) Permanent Secretary, Datin Maimunah, to deliver reftel demarche. Ambassador Todd stressed the important role both Brunei and ASEAN play in support of UNSCR 1874. While highlighting the need to avoid unnecessary confrontation, Ambassador Todd emphasized that ASEAN can and should take the lead in promulgating a code of conduct and transparency in dealings with North Korea. Burma's ongoing and opaque transactions with North Korea were noted as an area of specific concern. Ambassador Todd urged the MFAT to press the Burmese government to adhere to their obligations under UNSCRs 1718 and 1874.

¶2. (C) Datin Maimunah noted that both the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prince Mohamed, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pehin Lim Jock Seng, have been requesting more information from MFAT staff regarding the ongoing North Korean issue. Datin was especially appreciative of the non-paper Ambassador Todd provided. While noting Government of Brunei's (GoB) concerns with recent North Korean actions, she said the MFAT would need to consult with their ASEAN partners before determining next steps. She noted that the MFAT believes these consultations would occur in July during Ministerial meeting in Thailand. Datin did emphasize that Prince Mhamed is engaged on this issue.

¶3. (C) Datin noted the concerns about shipments to and from Burma. She was non-committal on the GoB's response on both a bilateral basis or within ASEAN. Datin noted the GoB is concerned about the large number of suspect shipments, especially those believed to be carrying arms that are transiting the region. She noted again that Brunei would need to consult with ASEAN partners before taking an action regarding Burma.

¶4. (C) Datin acknowledged the need for transparency in dealings with the North Korea. On more than one occasion she noted that senior MFAT and GoB officials have been surprised at North Korean actions. She stated these actions are well outside the norm, even for North Korea. Datin said that the North Koreans have taken "brinkmanship too far." Datin concluded by emphasizing that Brunei remains concerned about the actions North Korea is taking both within the region and globally.

TODD